

THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5 1. A chewing gum-containing tablet comprising a compressed mixture of gum base and a tablet base, such that, when masticated, the tablet initially exhibits a first crumbly stage in which the tablet breaks into particles, followed by a second chewing gum stage in which the particles form a wad of chewing gum.

10 2. The chewing gum-containing tablet of claim 1 prepared from a gum base and a tablet base material in particulate form.

 3. The chewing gum-containing tablet of claim 1 prepared by compressing a mixture of a gum base and a tablet base material in powder form.

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 4. The chewing gum-containing tablet of claim 2 wherein the gum base is a plasticized rubber or polymer which optionally includes texturizers, anti-tacking agents or antioxidants.

20 5. The chewing gum-containing tablet of claim 2 wherein the tablet base material is a sugar or a polyol.

 6. The chewing gum-containing tablet of claim 2 wherein the tablet base material is sucrose, fructose, lactose, dextrose, sorbitol, mannitol, maltitol, xylitol, isomalt, glucose syrup, maltitol syrup or erithrithol.

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 7. The chewing gum-containing tablet of claim 1 which further comprises one or more of a binder, a lubricant, a flavor or a color.

30 8. A chewing gum-containing tablet of claim 1 which further comprises a pharmaceutical, medicated, nutritive or functional ingredient, a dental vehicle or a breath freshener.

9. A process for the preparation of a chewing gum-containing which comprises mixing a particulated gum base with a particulated tablet base material and compressing the mixture in a tablet press to enable it to bind together and form a firm compact tablet such that, when masticated, the tablet initially exhibits a first crumbly stage in which the tablet breaks into particles, followed by a second chewing gum stage in which the particles form a wad of chewing gum.

10. The process of claim 9 wherein the gum base is a plasticized rubber or polymer which optionally includes texturizers, anti-tacking agents or antioxidants.

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11. The process of claim 9 wherein the tablet base material is a sugar or a polyol.

12. The process of claim 9 wherein the tablet base material is sucrose, fructose, lactose, dextrose, sorbitol, mannitol, maltitol, xylitol, isomalt, glucose syrup, maltitol syrup or erithrithol.

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13. The process of claim 9 which further comprises adding one or more of a binder, a lubricant, a flavor or a color to the mixture prior to compressing.

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14. The process of claim 9 which further comprises adding one or more of a pharmaceutical, medicated, nutritive or functional ingredient, a dental vehicle or a breath freshener to the mixture prior to compressing.